



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL NORM BALCHUNAS



Colonel Norm “Gump” Balchunas is the Director, Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. He is responsible for the Air Force’s High School citizenship training program for more than 102,000 students at over 850 high schools worldwide, managing over 1,800 instructors. Colonel Balchunas directs staff initiatives and policy to implement the world’s largest and most comprehensive aerospace science education program. He develops policies and procedures for the day-to-day operation of the JROTC program; establishes standards for unit operations, instructor qualifications, and cadet performance; screens, approves, and certifies instructors; establishes and disestablishes JROTC units; establishes the curriculum; and provides equipment, supplies, and uniforms to JROTC units. He also conducts certification and training workshops for instructors and collects data on student performance and demographics. The colonel also monitors distribution of 10 percent of AFROTC scholarships for officer candidates allocated to JROTC.

Colonel Balchunas entered the Air Force in September 1983 after receiving his commission in May 1983 through Bloomsburg University’s AFROTC program. The colonel has served as a B-52 standardization and evaluation and instructor electronic warfare officer and academic and flight line instructor and as a squadron commander. He has served as an assistant professor of aerospace studies and commandant of cadets at an ROTC detachment. Colonel Balchunas deployed as an expeditionary bomb squadron commander for combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His previous assignment was as deputy commander of Air Force ROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

EDUCATION:

1983 Bachelor’s degree in Anthropology, Bloomsburg University, Pa.
1986 Squadron Officer School (Correspondence)
1987 Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
1990 Master’s degree in Public Administration, Golden Gate University, Calif.
1996 Air Command and Staff College (Correspondence)
1998 Joint Information Operations Staff Course (Residence)
1999 Armed Forces Staff College (Residence)
2003 Air War College (Correspondence)
2004 Master’s degree in Strategic Studies, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. October 1983 - May 1985, student, undergraduate navigator and electronic warfare officer (distinguished graduate), Training, Mather Air Force Base, Calif.
2. May 1985 - May 1988, evaluator/instructor electronic warfare officer, 69th Bomb Squadron, 42nd Bomb Wing, Loring Air Force Base, Maine
3. May 1988 - April 1992, chief, electronic combat, CCTS academic/flight line instructor, 93rd Wing, Castle Air Force Base, Calif.

4. April 1992 – April 1995, assistant professor of aerospace studies and commandant of cadets, Det 715, AFROTC, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.
5. June 1995 – September 1996, flight commander, electronic warfare academics, 11th Bomb Squadron, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
6. September 1996 – July 1997, chief, personnel and FTU training, 2nd Operations Group, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
7. July 1997 - July 1998, commander, Det 3, 29th TSS, 53rd Bomb Wing (Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.), Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
8. July 1998 - June 2000, assistant chief, special technical operation, HQ USACOM, Norfolk Naval Air Station, Va.
9. July 2000 – April 2002, director of operations, 2nd Operation Support Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
10. April 2002 – June 2004, commander, 2nd Operational Support Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.
11. July 2004 – July 2005, student, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
12. July 2005-September 2005, deputy commander, AFROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.
13. September 2005– present, director, AFJROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Master Navigator

Flight hours: Approximately 2,700 (247 combat)

Aircraft Flown: B-52G/H and T-43

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Air Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and six devices

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

Combat Readiness Medal with three oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Iraq Campaign Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service and Expeditionary Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

Second Lieutenant	May 15, 1983
First Lieutenant	July 20, 1985
Captain	July 20, 1987
Major	July 1, 1995
Lieutenant Colonel	Dec. 1, 1999
Colonel	Nov. 1, 2005

(Current as of March 2006)